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Israeli Diplomats in U.S. Spy Case Are Reported to Face Recall Soon

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JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 — Two or three Israeli diplomats involved in the collection of scientific information for the Israeli Embassy in Washington are expected to be called home because of their alleged connections with an American Navy employee accused of selling secrets to Israel, Government sources said today.

The sources said the Israeli diplomats collecting scientific data, a routine assignment in most Israeli embassies, were linked in some way with Jonathan Jay Pollard, who is charged with selling someone at the Israeli Embassy secret American codes he obtained through his employment as a Navy counterintelligence analyst.

Press reports in Israel have hinted that the director of the Mossad, the Israeli equivalent of the Central Intelligence Agency, was not aware of what was happening. This has not been confirmed officially, and leaves open the question of who supplied the \$50,000 to \$100,000 that Mr. Pollard was allegedly paid by his Israeli contact.

On Wednesday, Israeli newspapers identified Rafi Eitan, a former member of Israeli intelligence who served as the Prime Minister's adviser on terrorism from 1978 to 1984, as the man who had first recruited Mr. Pollard and was overseeing his activities from Israel. Mr. Eitan retired as adviser on terrorism in September 1984, after Shimon Peres became Prime Minister.

Wait-and-See Attitude

Israeli officials said they were waiting to see what Mr. Pollard would in his court hearing before deciding how much to disclose publicly of their own investigation into the case.

Because of the extreme sensitivity of the case, and the domestic political ramifications it might have, Israeli officials have apparently decided to keep as much as possible out of the public eye. Official spokesmen still refuse to say when or if the results of the Government's internal investigation will be released.

Israeli officials say they believe the Reagan Administration does not want to make a major issue out of the Pollard affair. Officials also asserted with satisfaction that the amount of attention to the case has been waning in the American press.

As a result, there is now a desire to inform the Reagan Administration of the findings of the internal Israeli investigation through the most private channels possible and to release to the public only the minimum necessary to curb any anger in Congress or the American public.

"We hope that with all the spy stories coming out, ours will just get lost in the shuffle," one Israeli official said.

Differences in Attitudes

The attitude of the Israeli Government to play down the affair appears to be in direct conflict with the attitude of some American Jewish leaders.

Government sources said that the leader of one of the most influential American Jewish organizations had telephoned Prime Minister Peres and warned him that his "personal credibility" was at stake in the matter, that Israel's fund-raising efforts in Congress could be jeopardized and that nothing short of a complete and convincing explanation would be satisfactory.

The Prime Minister is understood to have received several telephone calls along these lines from American Jewish leaders concerned about the impact on Israel's image of allegations of spying on the United States government.

Many Israelis also share this view.

"What we need is an independent inquiry committee headed by a former Supreme Court Justice to investigate this matter fully," said Amos Eiran, a widely respected former director-general of the Prime Minister's office.

"Only if we have a full explanation that the political level was not aware of Pollard's activities and that this entire affair was in contravention of long-standing Government policy can any tension between the United States and Israel be removed," Mr. Eiran added. "We cannot afford to have a 31-year-old boy damage our relations with America."